



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

## Environmental Center

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center

Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Telephone: (808) 956-7361

RL:01130

HB 1563 HD 1

### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO CREATE AND TEST A MODEL OF WATER QUALITY SURVEYING AND SAMPLING USING VOLUNTEERS

House Committee on Finance

Public Hearing - February 24, 1993  
2:15 P.M., Room 908 SOT

by

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center

Edward Laws, Oceanography

Stephen V. Smith, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

HB 1563 HD1 would establish a model water quality sampling program within the Department of Health to test the feasibility of using citizen volunteers to augment field staff engaged in collection of water quality samples.

Our statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Although we continue to strongly support the intent of citizen volunteer water quality monitoring programs in concert with the EPA initiative, we again advise that such programs must be judiciously managed. The EPA guidelines emphasize the need for comprehensive professional training, and we note that such training is called for in this measure. However, EPA also notes that many of the most critical sampling procedures are inappropriate for citizen volunteers due to the meticulous methods and ultra clean techniques which must be employed to avoid contamination. The scientific community already is plagued with a legacy of erroneous data which lead to misguided decisionmaking and considerable expense and effort to correct the errors. Reliable environmental monitoring is not cheap, and it's not easy.